

DICYPHUS RHODODENDRI DOLLING, FIRST RECORDS FROM
NORTH AMERICA (HEMIPTERA: MIRIDAE)

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ABSTRACT—*Dicyphus rhododendri* Dolling (Hemiptera: Miridae) was described from England in 1972 and here is reported as new to North America. In Pennsylvania populations were found breeding on cultivated and native rhododendron and mountain laurel during June–July 1974 and 1975. Two specimens were found in the U.S. National Museum of Natural History collection; they were collected at Cleveland, Ohio in 1933 but were misidentified. A description of the adult is provided.

Dolling (1972) described *Dicyphus rhododendri* from specimens collected on *Rhododendron* spp. at London's Kew Gardens and elsewhere in southern England. He reported that reddish nymphs appeared in June and that adults were present from late June to early August. This mirid was commonly associated with an aphid, *Masonaphis* sp., on which it was observed to feed. Since *D. rhododendri* is most closely related to the New World *D. cucurbitaceus* (Spinola) [= *agilis* (Uhler)] group of the genus, Dolling believed *D. rhododendri* to be a Nearctic species that only recently had been introduced into England.

In a letter dated 24 January 1974, Mr. Dolling encouraged us to look for *D. rhododendri* in Pennsylvania. We immediately examined specimens of *D. cucurbitaceus* that we had collected in previous seasons and found two specimens taken on rhododendron during July 1974 that fitted Dolling's description of *rhododendri*. These were determined tentatively as *D. rhododendri* by the senior author.

In 1975 we found populations of *Dicyphus* breeding on flowers of native and cultivated *Rhododendron maximum* L. and mountain laurel, *Kalmia latifolia* L. (detailed biological observations will be included in a forthcoming paper on the mirid fauna of ericaceous shrubs). Specimens sent to Mr. Dolling were pronounced to be "undoubtedly *D. rhododendri*." The collection of this mirid from Pennsylvania essentially confirms Dolling's hypothesis that *D. rhododendri*, although described from England, originated in the Nearctic.

We now have examined specimens from the following localities: OHIO: Cleveland, 24 June 1933, C. F. Irish, on foliage rhododendron (2 specimens det. as *D. cucurbitaceus*, NMNH collection). PENNSYLVANIA: Centre Co., Rt. 322 at Krise Valley Rd., 8 July 1975, K. Valley, on *R. maximum*; Dauphin Co., E. Harrisburg Cemetery, 9 July 1974, B. R. Stinner, on *R. maximum*; Dauphin Co., Indian Face

nr. Dauphin, 6 June 1975, T. J. Henry and A. G. Wheeler, Jr., on *K. latifolia*; Luzerne Co., Glenburn, Rankin's Nursery, 4 June 1975, A. G. W., on *K. latifolia*; Philadelphia Co., Morris Arboretum, 11 July 1974, A. G. W., on *Rhododendron* sp.; Schuylkill Co., Rt. 81, 1 mi. S. of Rt. 443, 4 June 1974, on *K. latifolia* (all specimens in Pa. Dept. Agriculture collection).

Dicyphus rhododendri Dolling

Male: length 4.24–4.48 mm, width 1.12–1.20 mm ($n = 4$). Generally shiny black with hemelytra transparent. Head: width 0.64 mm; vertex 0.20 mm. Rostrum: length 1.44 mm, reaching middle of mesocoxae. Antennae: I, length 0.34 mm, pale yellowish to white, often lightly infuscated at apex; II, 1.34 mm, black; III, subequal to 2nd, fuscous on basal $\frac{1}{3}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$, pale yellow beyond; IV, 0.50 mm, yellowish. Pronotum: length 0.55 mm, width at base 0.94 mm; shiny black, collar white, a distinct elongate yellow triangle present along median line; mesoscutum and scutellum black. Hemelytra: lateral margins, veins and apex of corium distinctly infuscated, cuneus yellow, apex fuscous. Membrane: fumate, veins fuscous. Venter: sternum, base and apex of abdomen fuscous, sides of abdomen greenish to yellow. Legs: testaceous to yellowish; anterior aspect of hind femora with single row of fuscous spots, posterior aspect with group of spots on apical half.

Female: length 4.40–4.64 mm, width 1.16–1.24 mm ($n = 5$). Head: width 0.64 mm, vertex 0.28 mm. Rostrum: 1.46 mm. Antennae: I, 0.34 mm; II, 1.09 mm; III, subequal to 2nd; IV, 0.51 mm. Pronotum: length 0.61 mm, width at base 1.00 mm. Similar to male in color and markings.

Remarks: *Dicyphus rhododendri* very closely resembles *D. cucurbitaceus*, but may be separated by the pale yellow triangle on the pronotum, the lack of reddish markings on the hemelytra (some specimens of *D. cucurbitaceus* lack red), the more distinctly yellow cuneus, the male genitalia, and the reddish nymphs.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We are grateful to Mr. W. R. Dolling, British Museum (Natural History), for encouraging us to look for *D. rhododendri* in Pennsylvania and for sharing with us some of his observations on this mirid. Dr. K. Valley, Pa. Dept. Agric., kindly criticized the manuscript.

REFERENCE

- Dolling, W. R. 1972. A new species of *Dicyphus Fieber* (Hem., Miridae) from southern England. Entomol. Mon. Mag. 107:244–245.